

Iran to send 66 sportspersons to 2024 Paralympics



MEHR

Iran's National Paralympic Committee will send 66 athletes to the forthcoming 2024 Paralympic Games. The Iranian Para athletes will compete in 10 sports in Paris, according to Mehr News Agency. The Games will run from Aug. 28 to Sept. 8 in Paris and will host more than 4,000 athletes from around the world competing in 549 medal events. The first Paralympic Summer Games in the French capital will showcase 22 sports, including both individual and team sports. Previously in the 2020 Paralympic Games, Iran partook with 62 athletes and won 12 gold medals, 11 silvers, and one bronze.

Koushki joins Esteghlal

Alireza Kouhshki joined Esteghlal football team from Gol Gohar on Saturday. The 24-year-old midfielder has penned a two-year deal with the Blues, according to Tasnim News Agency. Koushki is Esteghlal's fifth signing in the transfer window.

Esteghlal has previously completed the signing of Milad Zakipour, Mohammad Hossein Eslami, Ramin Rezaeian and Saman Fallah. Also on Saturday, Farshid Samiei was named as Esteghlal football club's general manager.

Samiei was working as the club's acting president since parting ways with Ali Khatir on May 1.

He is a lawyer and has nearly two decades of experience in the role.

Under his leadership, Esteghlal has completed signing of Milad Zakipour, Saman Fallah, and Ramin Rezaeian so far.

Persepolis defender Hanonov signs for Sepahan: IPL



TASNIM

Persepolis' Tajik defender Vahdat Hanonov joined the Sepahan football club on Sunday. The 23-year-old center back joined Persepolis from Istiklol in 2021 and played 29 matches for the Reds and scored a goal, wrote Tasnim News Agency. He was frustrated with the lack of game time in Persepolis.

Hanonov is a member of the Tajikistan national football team and has played 35 times for the Crowns.

Wrestling Asian Youth Championship:

Iran Greco-Roman wrestlers crowned with nine medals

Sports Desk

The stunning performance of Iranian representatives at Greco-Roman Wrestling of Asian Youth Championships brought home six gold, one silver and a couple of bronze medals in Sri-racha, Thailand.

The Iranian squad bagged a total of nine medals to stand atop the team table with 206 points, followed by Kazakhstan, which tallied 185 points and Kyrgyzstan at the third place with 141 points.

At the end of the first day's competitions on Saturday, all five representatives of Iran won gold medals as Ali Ahmadi-Vafa in 55kg, Erfan Jarkani in 63kg, Alireza Abd-e Vali in 77kg, Mohammad Hadi Seydi in 87kg, and Abolfazl Fat'hi Tazangi in 130kg won the golds.

Ahmadi-Vafa thrashed Kazakh Arsen Zhuma 8-0 in a thrilling final showpiece to walk away with the ultimate prize of the 55kg-category contests, while Jarkani came out victorious 5-1 against Saudi Arabia's Munthir Jandu for the 63kg gold.



IRNA

A third gold medal for the Iranians came in the 77kg event, where Abd-e Vali outmuscled Ulan Muratbek Uulu of Kyrgyzstan 9-0 in the final. Seydi won another gold medal for Iran in 87kg final with an

8-0 victory over Kazakh Baglan Kuanysh while the fifth top prize was fetched by Fat'hi Tazangi in 130kg as the Iranian athlete bested Jokhar Uzarov from Kazakhstan in the final.

As second day of the contest

ended on Sunday, one more gold medal was snatched by Iran's Hamidreza Keshtkar in 97kg, while Ahmadreza Mohsennejad settled for the silver medal of 67kg and two bronzes were won by Ahoura Boveyri and Mo-

hammad Arjomand in 72kg and 82kg, respectively.

The sixth gold medal for Iran was drawn by Keshtkar as he defeated Kazakh wrestler Rakhmat Berzhanov 6-3 in the final game.

Pope hails unifying power of sport ahead of Olympics



AFP

Pope Francis hailed the unifying power of sport on Sunday ahead of the Olympic and Paralympic Games, and repeated his call for a worldwide truce during the event.

"Sport has a great social strength, capable of peacefully

uniting people of different cultures," he said in St Peter's Square after his weekly Angelus prayer, ahead of the Olympics opening ceremony on Friday in Paris.

"I hope that this event can be a sign of the inclusive world that

we want to build and that the athletes, with their sporting testimony, be messengers of peace and effective models for young people in particular," the 87-year-old said.

"According to the ancient tradition, the Olympics are an occasion to establish a truce in wars, demonstrating a sincere desire for peace."

The Olympic Games run from July 26 to August 11, followed by the Paralympic Games from August 28 to September 8.

West's double standard

Meanwhile, IRNA wrote on Sunday that the West's double standard approach toward human rights and equality is once again in the spotlight amid France's refusal to ban Israeli athletes from participating in the Paris Olympics.

Calls have been growing on France to ban Israel's participation in the 2024 Summer Olympics - seen as a symbol of

global peace and friendship - over the regime's genocidal war on Gaza that has killed nearly 39,000 Palestinians, mostly women and children, since early October.

But the government of Emmanuel Macron and the Organizing Committee of the Olympic and Paralympic Games have remained adamant, refusing to put the ban on Israeli participation. This comes while Russian and Belarusian athletes are treated in a different way over the war in Ukraine. Their athletes are barred from participating under their national flags and are only allowed to qualify as neutrals.

Western countries have taken a tough stance against Russia over the Ukraine war, which began after the same countries failed to address Moscow's security concerns over their military alliance NATO's expansion eastward. But the West has remained silent on the continued killing of civilians in

Gaza by the Israeli regime and has even tried to portray Israel as a victim of the war.

This blatant support, while being inhumane based on moral values, is considered unwise as it has had no benefits for Western governments but to draw global anger against them. The reason behind this support is probably related to Western politicians who achieve personal political gains by remaining loyal to Zionist lobbyists providing them with money and power.

With popular calls already getting louder in Western countries over the Israeli regime's conduct, these governments are better to realize that keeping support for the regime at the expense of silencing freedom-seeking voices is of no use for them, while adopting double standard approaches regarding international bodies will discredit these bodies and replace them with other organizations.

Azerbaijan rejects visa to Iran 3x3 women basketball team

The Iranian women's team was denied visa by Azerbaijan, leaving them out of the FIBA 3x3 Women's Series 2024.

The Iranian team will not be attending an international tournament, as their visa requests have been denied by the Azerbaijan Republic, reported Mehr News Agency.

Iran was scheduled to meet Germany's Düsseldorf ZOOS on July 20 in Pool B but the match was forced to forfeit.

This season of the FIBA 3x3

Women's Series features a marathon with 20 stops confirmed. The two-day event is being held in Quba, Azerbaijan.

The first stop of the 2024 season was held in Springfield, the US, on April 23-24, marking the first-ever Women's Series in the United States since the launch of the competition in 2019.

With a total of 20 events throughout this season and over 1.4 million USD in prize, the Women's Series is set to reach unprecedented heights.



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